



MINUTES

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

**Call to Order/
Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Siersema, who led Commissioners and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioners Absent: None

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Harlow, Kirkorn, Mason, McGovern, Mason, Rivera, and Siersema were in attendance.

Others Present: Travis Hopkins, Acting Director of Public Works – Engineering
David Webb, Acting Director of Public Works - Operations
Howard Johnson, Utilities Manager
Ken Dills, Principal Analyst
Jay Kleinheinz, Water Production Supervisor
Derek Smith, Water Quality Coordinator
Joyce Greene, Administrative Assistant

MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Rivera, seconded by Commissioner Mason to approve the minutes of July 18, 2007.

VOTE: The motion carried.
AYES: 5
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 2 (Harlow, Spencer absent July 18, 2007)

PRESENTATIONS-COMMENDATIONS

None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

- E-1. Status Update on Planned Utility Yard Expansion – Travis Hopkins introduced Utilities Manager Howard Johnson who provided the update to the Commissioners. In 1987 the City commissioned a study of its Water Operations Yard. The Water, Waste Water and Storm Drain sections merged in 2003 to create the Utilities Division, which requires additional space for staff and equipment that is located on site. There is 90 staff at the facility with some housed in temporary trailers. The current layout of the yard is not in an arrangement to properly house all equipment, maneuver vehicles and does not provide adequate parking for staff and city vehicles.

Over the years costs have escalated and the project has been scaled back from the original design. The intent of the remodel is to bring the facility up to standards and to design the facility as "green" as possible. Among other issues, fluoride tanks need to be moved from their current location that impedes traffic. The Utilities Division is moving forward to meet NPDES standards. Several designs have been reviewed and a City Council Study Session has previously been held.

Existing buildings do not have adequate space to hold staff meetings, staff training sessions, or a town hall meeting. As General Manager of the WOCWB, meetings are held at the facility that currently requires early release of staff to have adequate parking space available for all attendees. Discussion ensued.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- F-1. Active Capital Project Report – An update on active capital projects under construction, as well as those in the planning stage was presented for the Commission's information. Discussion was held on various projects.

Travis Hopkins gave an update on the Warner Avenue gravity sewer line problems that have put the project on hold. The line is not maintaining grade but is experiencing a 14-inch movement. Staff is currently working with the design engineer and a soils engineer for possible causes. Review of the design and construction is the focus at this time. Additional soils evaluations have been completed. Costs will be impacted and once the cause is determined the City Attorney's office will address responsibility.

The sanitation district is being kept informed due to ongoing negotiations for the district to take ownership. Staff recently met with the sanitation district. Currently, staff is moving forward with plans for the sanitation district to assume ownership, however, the completion date will be delayed and there will be consideration to the gravity sewer line being part of the annexation. We have no signed agreement at this time with the sanitation district to annex the lift station.

The city website is being updated in an effort to keep citizens informed on the progress during the investigation. Traffic control has been removed from the PCH/Warner intersection to the channel during the on-going investigation.

Commissioner Spencer left at 5:35 p.m.

- F-2. Upcoming City Council Study Sessions – The City Council conducts public Study Sessions on the evenings of City Council meetings, normally beginning at 4:00 p.m., in Room B-8. A tentative listing of upcoming sessions is submitted for the Commission's information.

The October 1 Study Session will be on the Bridge Study. Chair Siersema commented PIO should be involved in getting information out to the citizens that Public Works has been pro-active with the bridge study being conducted before the bridge collapse in Minnesota and not as a result of that incident.

The Commission was advised Water Conservation has been added as an item to the October 15 Study Session. Sessions start at 4:00 p.m., however, there is not an exact time this item will be under discussion as there are three items for the October 15 Study Session.

Commissioner Mason requested a reminder email be sent to each Commissioner approximately one week before the Study Session when a Public Works item is scheduled.

Commissioner Rivera left at 5:45 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- G-1. Public Hearing to Consider Acceptance of Public Works Utilities Division Public Health Goals – Chair Siersema declared the Public Hearing open. There were no speakers.

Howard Johnson, Utilities Manager, provided a condensed version of the report. SB 1307 requires a report be prepared every three years since July 1, 1998. The report is to include if any water quality measurements have

exceeded Public Health Goals. Public Health Goals are non-enforceable goals established by the California EPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. All City wells meet all State and Federal drinking water standards set to protect public health.

Hearing no comments or requests to speak, the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion by Commissioner Harlow, seconded by Commissioner Mason to accept the Public Works Water Division Public Health Goals Report.

VOTE:	The motion carried.
AYES:	5
NOES:	0
ABSENT:	2 (Spencer, Rivera)
ABSTENTIONS:	0

Commissioner Harlow complimented Mr. Johnson and his staff on the fine job they do for the City.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Harlow expressed his concern that the condition of flood control channels are bigger problems than bridge issues in the City. He requested staff obtain an update from the County on flood control channels within the City. Travis Hopkins will contact the County and request an update.

Commissioner Kirkorn commented on the great work done by the staff handling graffiti calls and wanted to acknowledge Public Works employees Ken Judd and Beverly Campos for their professional and helpful demeanor when calls related to graffiti are made to the City. A request was made to place an acknowledgement in their Personnel files.

Chair Siersema requested an update on the FOG program be scheduled for a future meeting.

Commissioner Mason inquired on the progress of the pier inspection. David Webb responded the inspection is completed and the verbal report was good. Staff is waiting the written report on the pier. Once the written report is received it will be provided to the Commission.

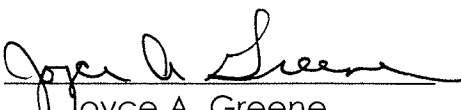
Commissioner Mason inquired on the status of the rollout of the new Rainbow Disposal program. David Webb responded the rollout is going well. The number of complaints/issues is lower than anticipated. Each issue is being addressed as it is received.

Commissioner Harlow inquired on the status of the recruitment for the new Director of Public Works. The application deadline is September 28, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15, 2007, 5:00 p.m., City Council Chambers. The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Michael Siersema
Chair



Joyce A. Greene
Administrative Assistant